

# HOWNICKAN

## PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

Vol. 20, No. 2

Citizen Potawatomi Nation

February 1998

## Tribal administration moves to new home

Matters are back to normal at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation administrative headquarters following a mid-February move. The move from the previous Administration Building at 1901 South Gordon Cooper Drive was achieved with a minimum of disruption of the flow of the Nation's business.

Following the move, accomplished on February 19 and 20, employees have, for the most

### **More Moving Photos On Pages 8 & 9**

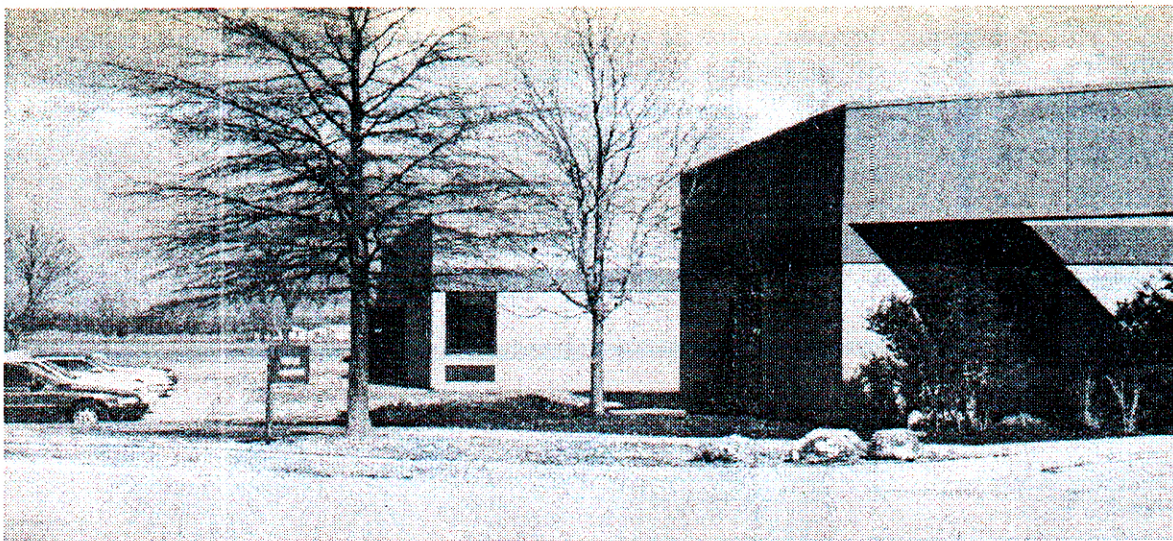
part, familiarized themselves with the layout of the erstwhile Oakcrest Hospital facility that is their new "home away from home."

The Nation purchased the facility in October 1997. After examining several ideas for using the building, the Business

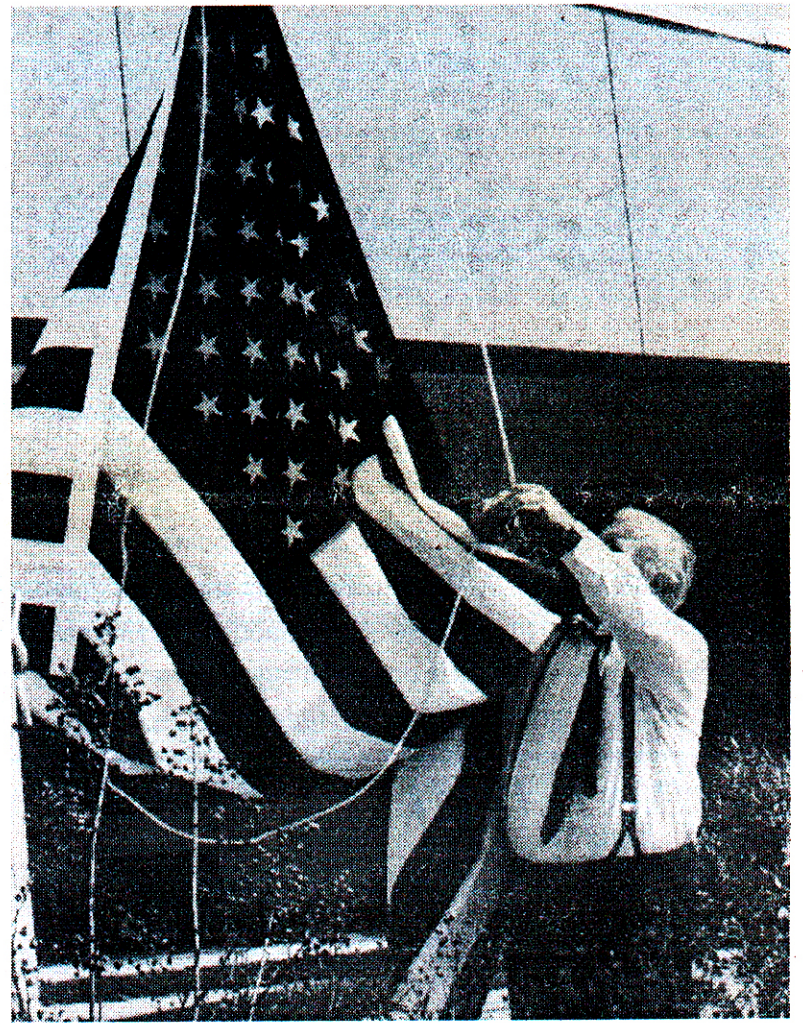
Committee decided that placing administrative offices there makes the most business sense.

All administrative offices that had been in the previous headquarters building are now in the new-to-the-Nation facility. In addition, the Potawatomi Nation Child Care and Employment and Training Programs and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Realty Office will be in the new headquar-

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*Exterior Of Former Oak Crest Hospital, Now Tribal Administration Headquarters*



*Chairman Barrett Raises First Flag At New Headquarters*

## Sixteen volunteers ready for mentor training session

By MICHAEL DODSON

CPN Director of Public Information

As the date for a training session nears, 16 women and men have agreed to serve as mentors in a Citizen Potawatomi Nation-sponsored program for first offenders.

"We are very pleased by the response to a program that will help these young people and, through that, the community as a whole," said Shirl Hubert, First Offenders Program director.

The youth who enter First

Offenders have committed a first error; it has earned them a first encounter with the juvenile justice system. The program is there, with a firm but loving hand, for these Pottawatomie County teens. The Community and Family Services Depart-

ment operate it.

The program helps the youngsters and their parents ensure there is no repeating the bad decision. In place since 1991, the First Offenders Program has a very satisfying record of preventing recidivism

in some 80% of the cases it handles.

"These are children of all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds," said Hubert. "They are 11 to 18 years old."

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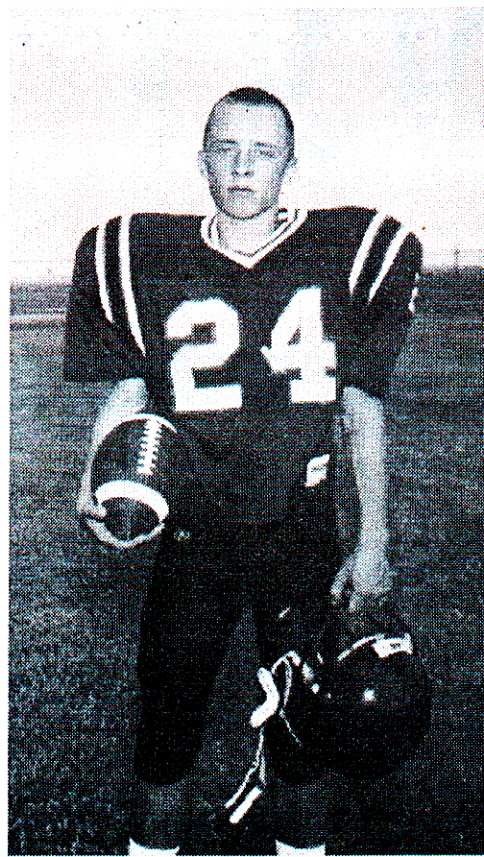
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# TRIBAL TRACTS



## Undefeated

Tribal members Kenny Smith and Waylon Gillan, who both attend Holcomb Kansas High School, were members of the high school football team which was undefeated in the regular season, and 11-1 for the year. These boys are very active in school 4-H and FFA activities, holding office in both. They are descendants of John Anderson. Kenny is the great-grandson of Herman E. Anderson and Waylon is a great-great-grandson of Herman. Kenny plans to be a Marine and Waylon plans to attend college. "We are proud of these boys," said Wanda L. Smith, granddaughter of Herman Smith.

## HOW-NI-KAN PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

The HowNiKan is published by the Business Committee of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation with offices at 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801.

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All correspondence should be directed to HowNiKan, 1901 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Ok. 74801. Address changes should be sent to Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1901 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Ok. 74801.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Business Committee  
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Vice Chairman - Linda Capps  
Sec./Treasurer - Gene Bruno  
Committeeman - Hilton Melot  
Committeeman - Jerry P. Motley

Toll-Free Number: 1-800-880-9880  
<http://www.potawatomi.org>

## From Our Mailbox

Dear Mary Farrell:

Thank you so much for sending some copies of old rolls taken from the microfilm. I never knew my father's side of my family and have always wondered about that part of my being. My mother and father were divorced when I was two and a half or three years old.

I did know my uncle Ed Rhodd and believe my aunt Josephine. I think she visited us and I remember a little boy about my age and he ate all my ketchup, some lovely memories as ketchup was my main food at that time. I dearly loved it. Funny what you will remember. I knew I had a half brother by the name of Dewey and never got to meet him. I grew up and became a Registered Nurse and did see my dad a few times before he died.

I have always been delighted to be a Potawatomi. My life has been very good and I usually attend the tribal meetings of Northern California. I am 78 years old and very active. I have been fighting cancer. I have been fighting cancer for two and a half years and so far have been winning.

W. Nadine (Rhodd) Smith  
Stockton, California

## Walking on ...

### Elizabeth Louise "Betty" Woodruff

Elizabeth Louise "Betty" Woodruff, 60, Overbrook, Kansas, died Monday, Nov. 17, 1997, at a Topeka hospital.

Mrs. Woodruff had been a secretary for Turcher Magic Gas in Overbrook and later for Ameritus Financial Services in Topeka. She also was a volunteer at the Overbrook Library.

She was born Jan. 2, 1937, at St. Marys, the daughter of William Joseph and Cecelia Catherine Doll Mainey. She was graduated from Hayden High School in Topeka in 1955.

Mrs. Woodruff was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Topeka. She had lived in Overbrook since 1972.

She married Barry E. Woodruff on June 18, 1966, at Topeka. He died Sept. 11, 1997.

Survivors include a son, Barry E. Woodruff, Jr., Overbrook; a daughter, Wendy E. Bessette, Overbrook; her mother, Cecelia C. Mainey, Topeka; two brothers, Robert L. Mainey, Davenport, Iowa, and Donald E. Mainey, Topeka; and six grandchildren.

### John LeClair

John LeClair, Jr., 69, Shawnee, died Jan. 31, 1998, at a Shawnee, Okla., hospital. He was born Aug. 7, 1928, in Konawa to John and Gertrude (Wano) LeClair. He attended Chilocco School and was a house painter in Oklahoma City and the surrounding areas. He received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army in 1952.

Survivors include daughter Johnna Sue Ray, Tuttle; three brothers, Edward LeClair, Reno, Nev., Franklin LeClair, Oklahoma City, and William LeClair, Shawnee; five sisters, Celeste Hamilton, Sapulpa; JoAnn Coplan, Wagoner; Betty Hernandez, Dallas, Texas; Carolyn Rodriquez, San Bernardino, Calif., and Joyce Day, New York City, New York; and two grandsons, Raymond and Jason Ray, Tuttle, Okla.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two sisters, Ellen Marie Wilson and Nellie LeClair, and a brother, Richard LeClair.

There were no funeral services.

## TRIBAL ELECTION NOTICE

The annual tribal referendum and election will be held on **June 27, 1998**. Voting will be at the tribal complex the day of the election from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Requests to vote an absentee ballot must be made by **June 7, 1998**. Requests for absentee ballots must be in writing and include the correct mailing address, roll number and legal signature of the person making the request. A referendum budget to determine expenditures of accumulated interest from set aside funds, as well as the election of tribal officials, will be on the ballot. Requests for tribal election ballots should be mailed to: Potawatomi Election Committee, P.O. Box 310, Tecumseh, OK 74873.



# TRIBAL TRACTS

## SPRING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Nancy L. McClendon	Connors State College
Debra G. Moore	Rose State College
Margaret A. Dudley	Eastern Oklahoma State College
Douglas S. Brinson	East Central University
Randal Schoemann	LSU Medical Center
Linda R. Haralson	Oklahoma City Community College
Harry E. Hinesley	East Central University
Christine A. Winsor	OSU-Okmulgee Tech
Sharon S. Tate	Oklahoma Baptist University
Joyce M. Lewis	LeMoyne College
Lisa Johnson	Daytona Beach Community College
Susan J. Nadeau	Merritt College
Mary E. Tasier	Oklahoma City Community College
Gregory Baptiste	St. Gregory's University
Kathijo Caballero	Glendale Community College
Terry Cryer	Schenectady City Community College
Rhonda J. Honeycutt	Pasadena City College
Dale Sweeten	Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Echo Tescier	University of Oklahoma
Stanley Williams	University of Central Oklahoma
Jeremy S. Duvall	Oklahoma City University
Jessica M. Martin	University of Notre Dame
Jennifer Ann Lisle	Eastern Oklahoma State College
Eric W. Roberts	SW Assembly of God University
Anna K. Johnson	University of Oregon
Joel Michael Hopper	Oklahoma State University
Koby Shay Fleck	Northern Oklahoma College
Marcy L. Mulanax	Washburn University
Michael S. Mahaffey	University of Central Oklahoma
Justin D.H. Covalt	University of Central Oklahoma
Grant W. Gage	Abilene Christian University
Ryan P. McMillan	Garden City Community College
Eric J. McMillan	Garden City Community College
Brandon H. Beene	Seminole State College
Kaci R. Edge	OSU-Oklahoma City
Bryan A. Fuller	University of Oklahoma
Jessica M. Lantagne	Rose State College
Paige M. Hill	University of Central Oklahoma
Brandi R. Morris	Seminole State College
Keli L. Savory	Western Oklahoma State College
Allison N. Barrett	Seminole State College
Rachel E. Watson	Baylor University
Eric H. Hamilton	Metropolitan State College of Denver
Jody K. Mills	East Central University
Victoria M. Hernandez	Heritage College
Toni J. Kay	University of Oklahoma
Brian K. Walker	SW Texas State University
Brian W. Hancock	University of Kansas
Wade J. Miller	University of Oklahoma
Brian S. Overstreet	Oklahoma Baptist University
Amber N. Shirey	University of Central Oklahoma
Kelly M. Blue	Texas A&M University
Thomas K. Nickou	Montana State University
Jennifer R. Jordan	Johnson County Community College
Charles D. Dunigan	University of Oklahoma
Crystal Y. Mullins	Cameron University
Jamie D. Talkmitt	Texas Tech University
Cathy D. Manning	Oklahoma State University
Randall Wesselhoft	Purdue University-Calumet
Tiki L. Sissell	Dallas Baptist University
Larry S. Ogee	University of Oklahoma
Cory S. Spurlock	Southern Nazarene University
Nicole E. Emmons	Columbia College-Chicago
David K. Sivadon	Oklahoma Baptist University
Melanie S. Greenwood	East Central University
Jessica L. Brayfield	Central Missouri State University
Deborah M. Anderson	Bastyr University
Rachel D. Grummer	OSU-College of Veterinary Medicine
Amanda Trousdale	Oklahoma State University
Brandon L. Harriman	Washington City Technical College
Jason D. Wood	OSU Okmulgee Tech
Elizabeth D. Norman	Court Reporting Institute of Dallas
Jason M. DeLonais	Great Plains Area Vo-Tech
Jeremy M. Gregson	Gordon Cooper Vo-Tech

## Tribal member wed in unity ceremony

Tribal member Tad Greeson and Sue Resz were married on Sunday, October 26, 1997, at 3 p.m. in Washington State.

The unity ceremony was conducted by Darrin (Earth Star) Williams using the Sisiwiss (Si Si Wiss) tradition he uses in his work in the Sisiwiss coastal and the Hopi plains. The Hopi prepare the ceremony by finding a perimeter where they make a circle using corn meal to make a circle sacred. In the center of the perimeter is the altar, a place set up with a blanket, a table, a glass of water, a candle and a smudge bowl.

The Sisiwiss tradition uses cedar to brush the area for cleansing and the smudge bowl to burn sweetgrass, sage and lavender for spiritual powers. After the area is prepared, the bride is followed by four female escorts walking her in from the east with the sound of a drum, and the groom is followed by four male escorts walking in from the west where they meet at the center of the perimeter.

At the altar the bride and groom are brushed off with a cedar bough and blessed with the water. Then they state how long they have known each other and why they want to marry. There is a special drum song and then they proceed with their vows. After vows have been spoken the members throw feathers at the bride and groom, instead of rice. The bride and groom will keep one feather for themselves followed by each member who will also take one feather.

Following the wedding there



Mr. & Mrs. Tad Greeson

is a table set up for the give away: rocks, feathers, pictures — anything that the bride and groom collect and and give away to the members who attend the wedding so they have something to remember. Two witnesses are appointed to watch the give away and spread the word that it was

done in a ceremonial way. This is a way of honoring the spirits and the ancestors and it adds strength to the ceremony.

Tad is the grandson of Joan (Patton) Garrison and a descendant of Pierre Navarre. He is a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

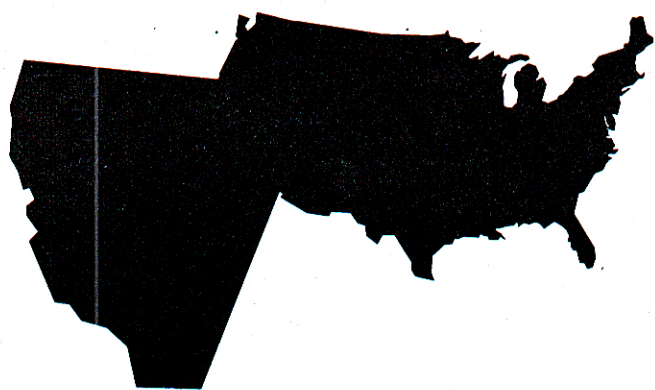
## HowNiKan DEADLINES/ADVERTISING RATES

The deadline for political advertising in The HowNiKan is the 5th of the month. Rates for political ads are listed below. Each candidate is offered a free quarter-page ad in the April issue as provided for in the tribal election ordinance. All other political ads must be paid for by the person or persons placing the ad. Payment must be made to the tribal Director of Accounting before the ad can be printed. The editor of The HowNiKan, under the election ordinance, shall have final approval on contents of free and paid advertisements and shall review the contents for libel, slander and inaccuracy of facts with the tribal attorney.

### Advertising Rates:

**Full Page - \$100; Half Page - \$50; Quarter Page - \$25**  
**Deadline: 5th of the month for that month's issue**





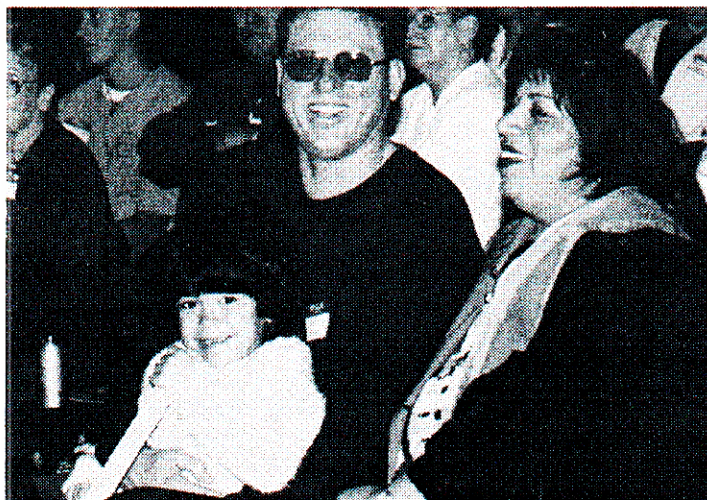
# Southern California Regional Council



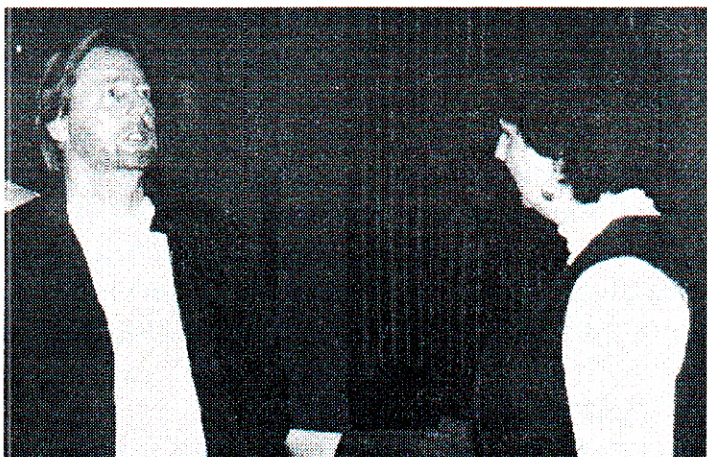
*These Gentlemen's Efforts Provided A Tasty Meal*



*Chairman Barrett Congratulates Loretta Peltier, 87, The Most Experienced Potawatomi Present*



*One Of Many Families Who Enjoyed The Council*



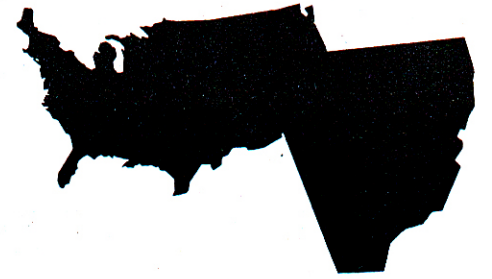
*Vice Chairman Linda Capps, Right, Exchanges Information On Tribal Activities*



*This Good-Looking Youngster Came For The Food!*

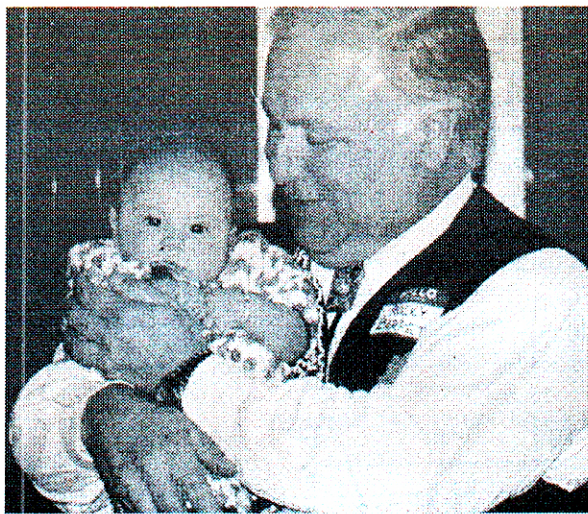
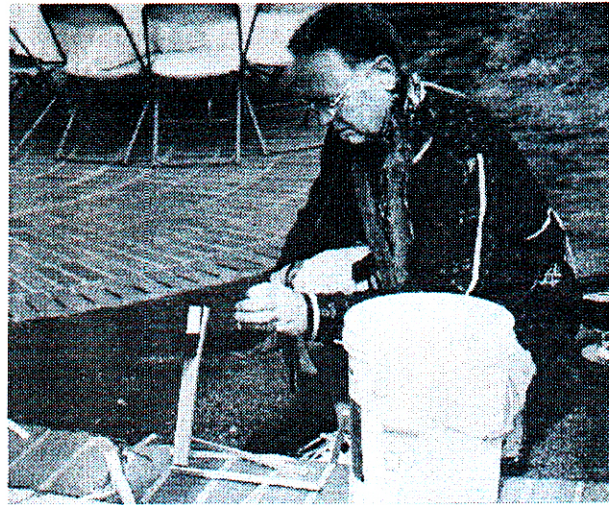


# Southwest Indian Museum Pasadena – Feb. 21, 1998



*Secretary-Treasurer Gene Bruno Had An Update On Tribal Investments*

*Jeremy Bertrand Finch Prepared The Ceremonial Fire*



*A Star Attraction Was Regional Director Jeremy Finch's New Daughter, Julia Marie Finch. At Left, Chairman Barrett Is Charmed By The Young Tribal Member, And At Right, The Baby Is Cuddled By Her Mother Mardesia.*



*A Most Interesting Totem Stands Watch At The Southwest Indian Museum*

*The Regional Art Contest Drew Some Great Entries. Below, Judge Flo Foster's Task Was A Tough One. Betty Coleman, Far Right, Won First Place With Her "Little Girl" Painting, And, Center, Nadiya Littlewarrior Was Third With Her Painted Gourds.*





# TRIBAL TRACTS

## Thorpe honored with issuance of second postage stamp

By MICHAEL DODSON  
CPN Director of Public Information  
Relatives, friends, and admirers tightly packed the Oklahoma Capitol fourth floor rotunda on Friday, January 30. The occasion was the public unveiling of a second U.S. postage stamp honoring legendary Citizen Potawatomi/Sac and Fox athlete James Francis Thorpe.

The Postal Service issued the Thorpe stamp as part of its "Celebrate the Century" program. Through "Celebrate..." the Postal Service has selected 15 people, events, or issues from each decade of the 20th century to feature on a stamp.

Thorpe was chosen to represent sports achievements in the decade from 1910 through 1919. In 1912, Thorpe became the only athlete ever to win gold medals in both the Decathlon and Pentathlon in one Olympics.

During the medal presentation ceremony, Sweden's King Carl Gustav IV told Thorpe, "You, sir, are the world's greatest athlete." Voting in an Associated Press poll in 1950, sportswriters agreed. They named Thorpe "The Greatest Athlete of the Half-Century."

"It's quite an honor and I'm quite proud to be his daughter," said Gail Thorpe of Yale,



*Tribal Members Kristy Phillips, Left, And Her Sister Edyth Phillips Pose In Front Of Thorpe Portrait. Kristy Is The Potawatomi Princess.*

Oklahoma.

Jim Thorpe was born between Shawnee and Prague to a Citizen Potawatomi mother, Charlotte Vieux, and a Sac and

Fox father, Hiram Thorpe, in 1887. His Olympic gold medals, and Amateur Athletic Union medals he won in 1912, were stripped from him in a contro-

versy over his amateur status.

In 1982, about 30 years after Thorpe's death, the Olympic committee restored his gold medal status and returned his name to the Olympics record books.

Thorpe also played professional football and baseball at the major league level. He was one of the founders, along with legendary Chicago Bears owner and coach George Halas, of the American Professional Football Association (APFA). He was its first president.

Under a new name, the APFA now operates a multi-billion dollar enterprise - the National Football League or NFL.

Thorpe's daughter Grace, who lives in Prague, told the highly appreciative audience about Jim Thorpe's selling franchises in the fledgling APFA for \$100 each.

Grace Thorpe also told about her father's being one of a set of twins; his brother died at age 9. "Dad said he got some of his energy from his twin," Thorpe recounted.

As she graciously accepted the postage stamp honor on behalf of her father and many Vieux and Thorpe relatives, Grace Thorpe stood beneath a life-size painting of Thorpe in track-and-field attire.

Grace Thorpe liked the

timing of the stamp's unveiling. She said that it should add momentum to her grassroots campaign to have Jim Thorpe named "The Greatest Athlete of the Twentieth Century" by those publications, wire services, and broadcast outlets that award such an honor.

Gail Thorpe said that, by the thousands, people across the United States have already signed petitions supporting this campaign.

Susan Plonkey, Oklahoma City Postmaster, said, "Jim Thorpe embodied will and desire. We are pleased the Jim Thorpe stamp will be enjoyed by many generations of sports and stamp-collecting enthusiasts to come."

Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin delivered and read from a proclamation signed by Gov. Frank Keating. It designated January 30, 1998 "Jim Thorpe Day" across Oklahoma.

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	Regular Price	Sale Price
Lg. Seal Clock	\$20.00	\$11.00
Large People of the Fire Clock	\$24.95	\$12.85
Small Seal Desk Clock	\$ 9.50	\$ 5.50
Single Seal Coaster	\$ 7.70	\$ 4.85
Set of 4 Seal Coasters	\$27.75	\$14.85
People of the Fire Coffee Mugs	\$ 3.50	\$ 1.75
Seal Coffee Mugs	\$ 3.50	\$ 1.75
POTAWATOMI Mugs	\$ 5.00	\$ 3.00
Large Suncatchers	\$18.00	\$ 7.00
Small Suncatchers	\$14.00	\$ 7.00
People of the Fire Tote Bags	\$ 6.50	\$ 3.25
Potawatomi of the West	\$11.00	\$ 6.50
Grandfather Tell Me a Story	\$11.00	\$ 6.50

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# TRIBAL TRACTS

## Meyers-Bartos granted staff privileges at Mission Hill

By MICHAEL DODSON  
CPN Director of Public Information

Elizabeth Meyers-Bartos, Advanced Family Nurse Practitioner at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Nishnabe Clinic, has earned standing that few other nurse practitioners enjoy. In November, the board of directors of Mission Hill Hospital in Shawnee, Oklahoma granted Meyers-Bartos medical staff privileges at the hospital.

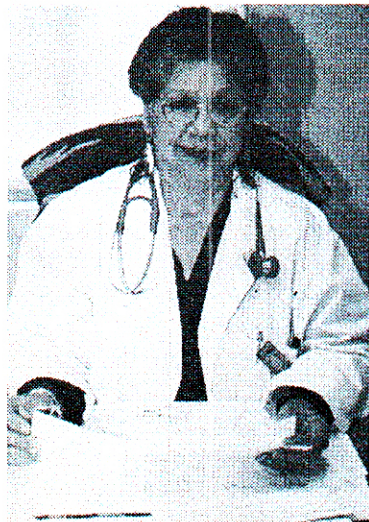
Meyers-Bartos has been the primary care provider at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation clinic since it opened in December 1996. Elizabeth, as her patients call her, is a nurse with a bachelor's degree in nursing, which she earned at Oklahoma Baptist University.

She has earned a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma. In earning her master's, Meyers-Bartos participated in advanced training and preceptorship programs with medical doctors and other nurse practitioners.

Since beginning her practice in 1996, Elizabeth has worked closely with consulting physicians Dr. David Hadley, MD and Dr. Keith Conaway, MD. Their offices are located in Shawnee and Tecumseh.

Describing the impact of having practice privileges at Mission Hill, Meyers-Bartos said, "It's important that, if a patient comes to the clinic with an emergency situation, I can now go directly across the street and have that patient admitted without any difficulty."

Meyers-Bartos told the *HowNiKan*, "As a Nurse Practitioner, I treat most illnesses. Our patients see the consulting physicians on an as-needed basis. Then, they return to the clinic for routine care."



Elizabeth Meyers-Bartos

Joyce Abel, Nishnabe Clinic director, believes it is very important to have a nurse practitioner on staff. "Starting off with a nurse practitioner, we can not only get quality care and services that our patients need but we can also provide health education and preventive services."

Meyers-Bartos believes there is role-model value in having achieved her new status. She wants young Native Americans to know that they can work within the mainstream health care delivery system as well as within the Indian Health Service.

She told the *HowNiKan*, "All we have to do is set our sights on a goal then pursue that goal. There was a time when I thought that I couldn't attain this goal, BUT I DID!"

Meyers-Bartos' new goal is to invest the next five years in working and learning at her current level and status. "Then, I will pursue a Ph.D. I feel that I would have enough experience at this level to be able to do a good doctorate."

Earning a doctorate would allow Meyers-Bartos to teach nursing at any level, including in graduate programs. Currently, she is acting as a preceptor for a graduate-level nurse, Cindy Davis, R.N.



Meyers-Bartos Examines A Young Patient At The Potawatomi Clinic

## Anderson re-elected to board of American Indian Center

On January 31, 1998, Tommy Craig Anderson, Citizen Potawatomi, was elected to Board of Directors of the American Indian Center, Inc. (AIC) for a third term. Anderson has been president of the board since 1996. Voting for board positions was held at the AIC's 11 county service area. Also elected to board positions were Laura Jo Deege, Heather Herndon and Dennis Ward.

"I'm really honored to be able to serve on the board of the AIC as president again," Anderson said. "I think the community members in North Texas are telling us that they

like the direction the AIC is taking. Over the last several years we have tried to expand the number of community events that we sponsor. We had our 2nd annual 3 on 3 Street Basketball Tournament at the center last year, we are planning our 3rd annual Pow Wow in May and our 7th annual Cultural Conference in September, in addition to our Thanksgiving and Christmas parties that we always have. Mary Helen Deer, our Executive Director, has done a great job running the center."

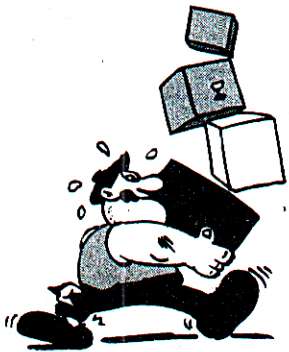
The American Indian Center was established in 1968 and is an Indian organization dedicated to providing

comprehensive, high quality services for the benefit of individuals entrusted to the AIC's care. By utilizing education, prevention and cultural interventions, the AIC promotes health and wholeness in the American Indian community and general population. The AIC is the only facility of its kind in the United States offering a culturally sensitive residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation counseling program. Because of this unique culturally sensitive approach, the AIC's success rates are consistently higher than the state averages.

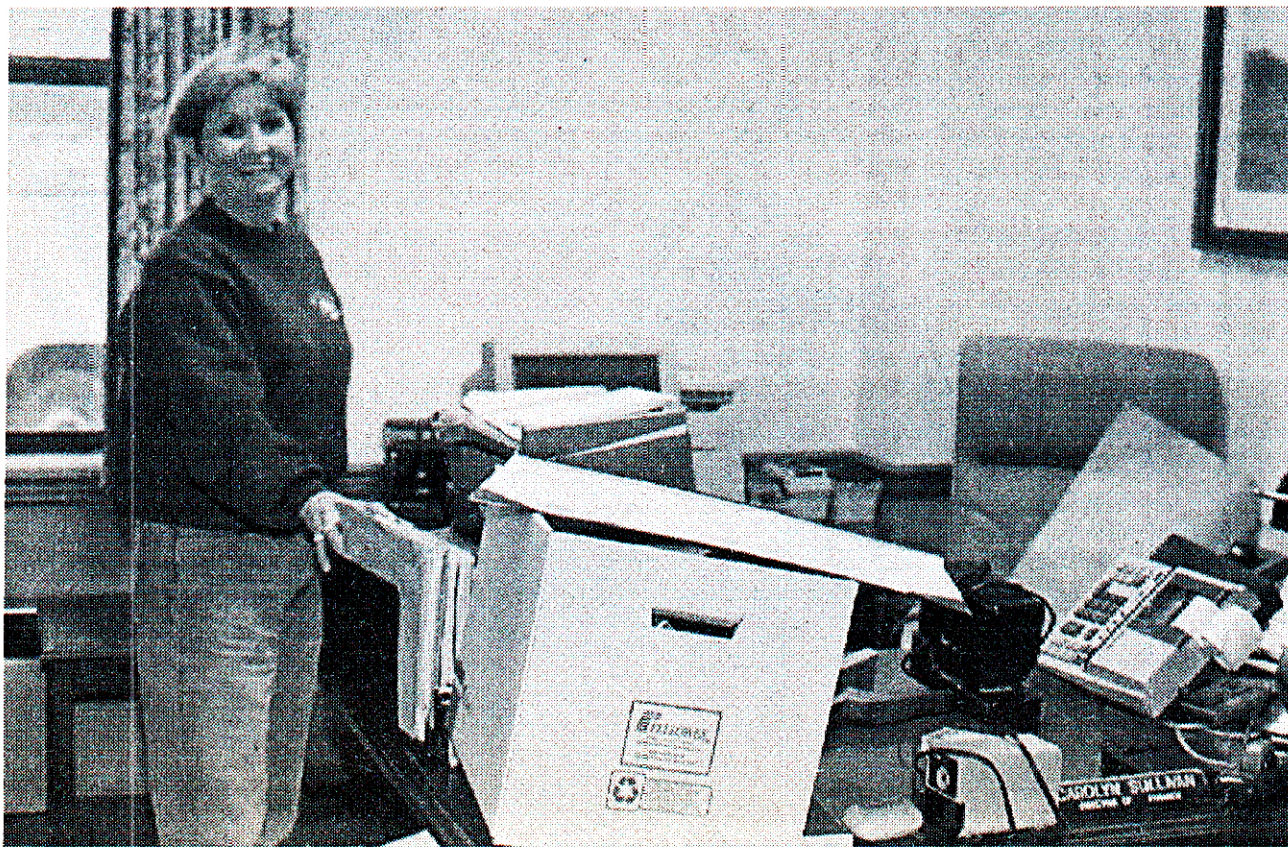
In 1994, with the help of the Meadows Foundation and financing provided

by two area banks, the AIC purchased its present facility, a 53,000 square foot building located on 10 acres of land. Since that time the AIC has continued its Capital Campaign with success. Contributors to the Capital Campaign have included the Hoblitzelle Foundation, Communities Foundation of Texas, the Hilcrest Foundation, Kelly-Moore Paints, Inc. and many individuals and businesses. For more information about the Capital Campaign please contact Cynthia Blackfox at (817) 355-5145.

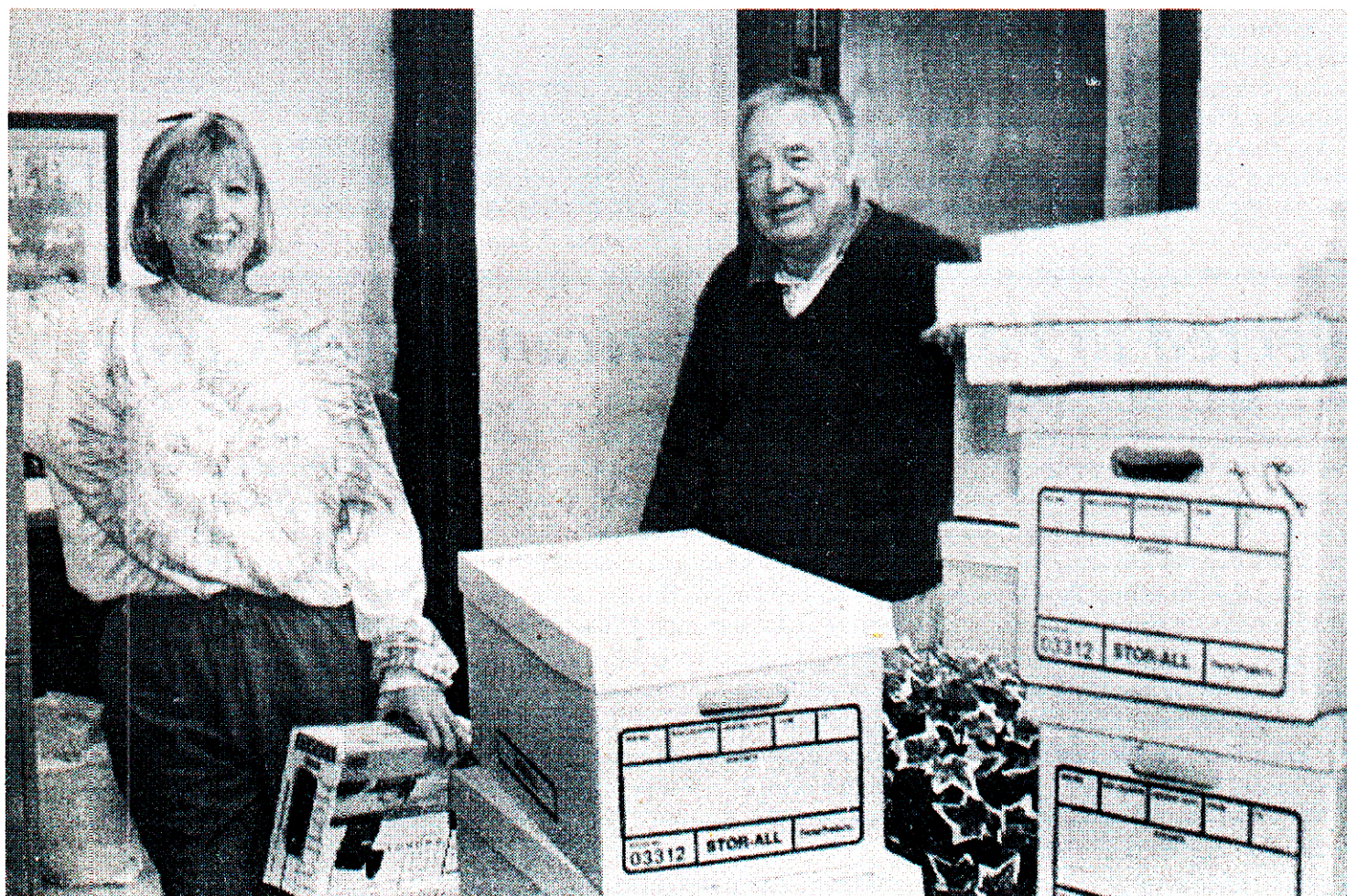




# Making The Move — To Ad

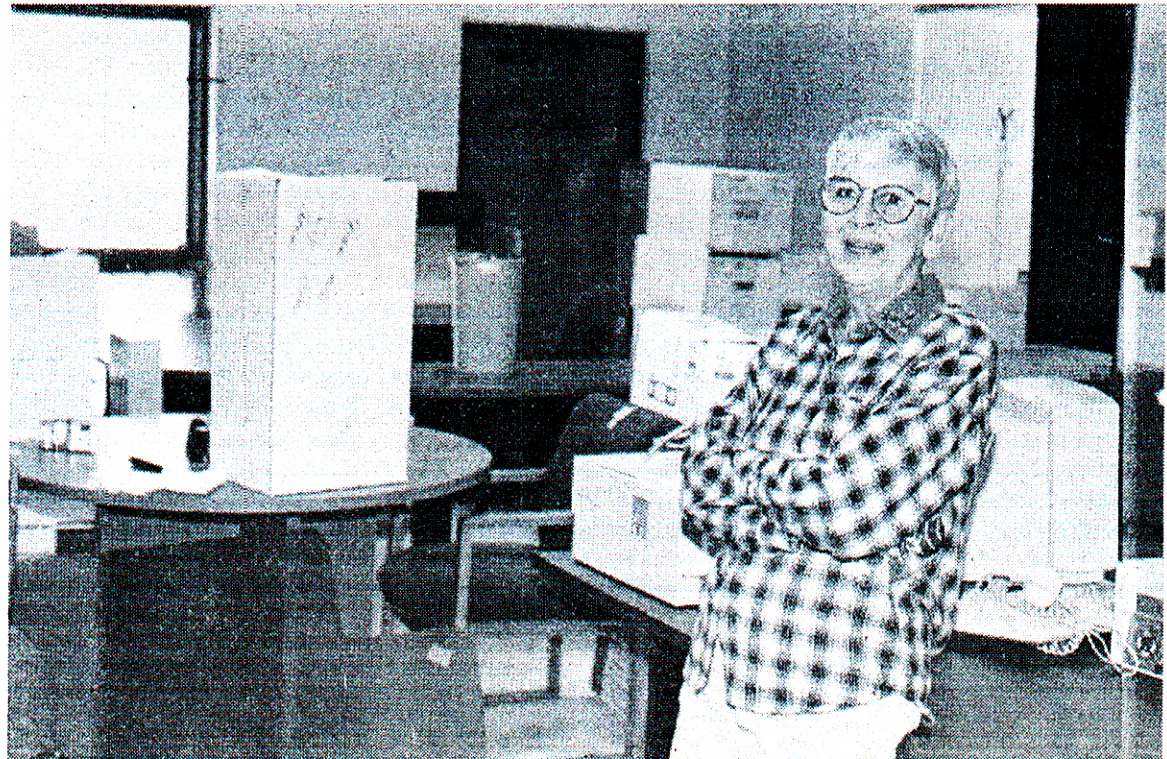
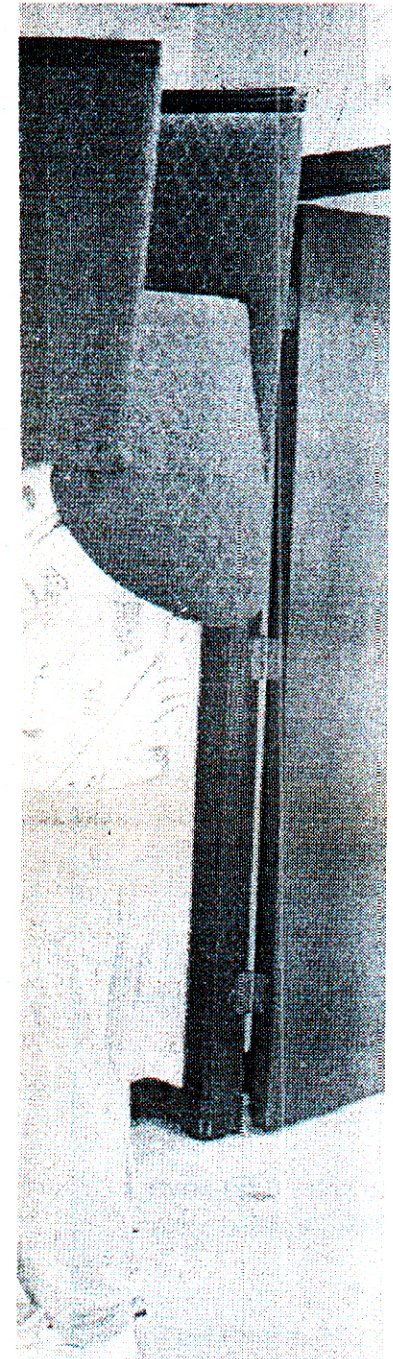
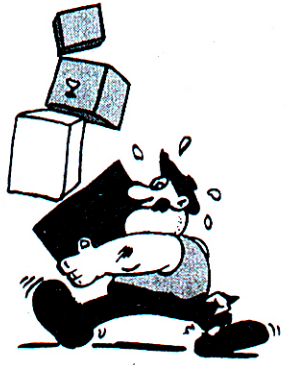


*Boxes, Boxes And More Boxes — Moving Tribal Records And Documents To Administration's New Home In The Former Oak Crest Hospital Building Took A Lot Of Packing. Just Ask Accounting Director Carolyn Sullivan, Above, And Administrative Secretary Vicky Waugh And Deputy Administrator Bob Trousdale, Below.*

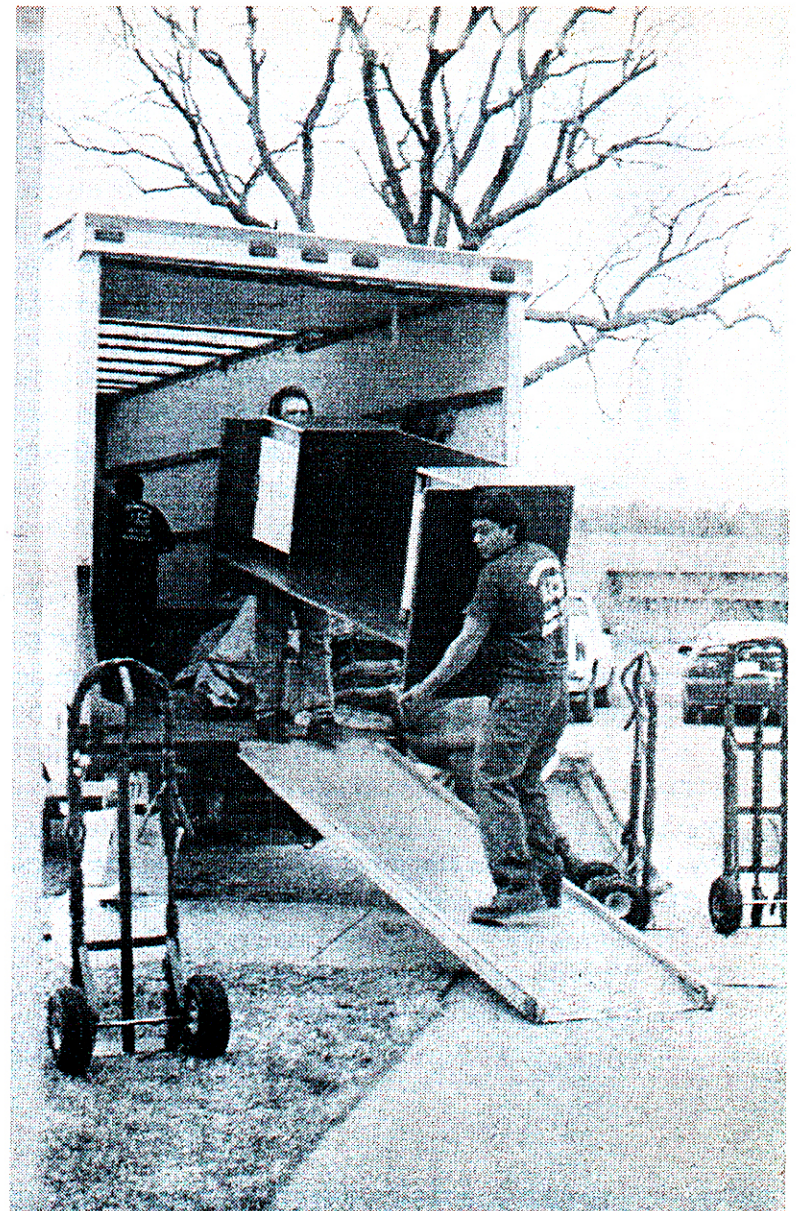
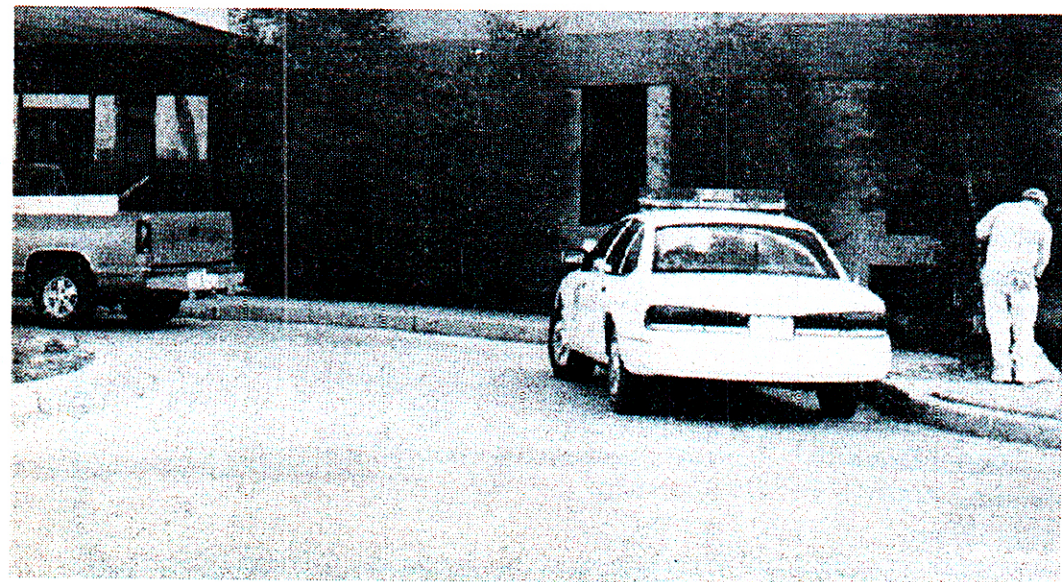




# Administration's New Home



*That's "Mr. T" (Bob Trousdale) Under That Chair At Left, Lending A Hand To The Movers. Above, Mary Farrell Wonders If She'll Ever Get The Tribal Rolls Unpacked. Below Left Is The Entrance To Administration's New Home, With Someone Taking A Broom To The Sidewalk. In The Photo Below Right, Movers Unload Furniture.*





# REGIONAL REPORTS

## Long range plans for regional offices explained at meeting

(Pasadena, CA) – A large, enthusiastic audience has responded warmly and with approval to Business Committee members' reports of major progress at tribal headquarters. John A. "Rocky" Barrett, Jr., Tribal Chairman, and Business Committee members delivered their reports at the Southern California Regional Council Meeting on February 21.

The setting was the beautiful Southwest Indian Museum in Pasadena. The Museum's thousands of historically significant, artfully-made exhibits provided a very appropriate backdrop for the meeting.

"We're going to talk about what is, I think, one of the most exciting periods of time that the tribe has gone through in years," said Chairman Barrett, in segueing into discussion of projects to benefit the entire tribal membership. "This past year and a half, there have been some remarkable things that are exciting and that will

have an impact on this region and tribal operations for some time to come."

Chairman Barrett led off with a description of plans to incorporate each of the eight Regional Council offices, either under pertinent state laws or through the Nation's federal charter.

"We plan to then apply for block grants from HUD and IHS for the regional offices. We will combine that with money generated in Oklahoma, to buy a piece of property on which to build a Citizen Potawatomi Regional headquarters," Barrett explained.

This would be the home for such services and facilities as an elderly day center, assisted living housing, recreational facilities, a dance grounds, and office space.

"We will start a circuit for our dentist, our optometrist, and our audiologist. They will visit each of these regional council offices twice annually to provide services to the people," Chairman Barrett said.

Business committee members also envision these regional offices containing a loan origination point for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation-owned First National Bank and Trust Co.

"We're going to start in Kansas City," Chairman Barrett explained, "because it's just a car drive from Shawnee to Kansas City. If we're going to do a pilot project first, it's a lot easier for us to drive to Kansas City (to deal with unexpected situations) than it is to fly to Southern California or other regional offices."

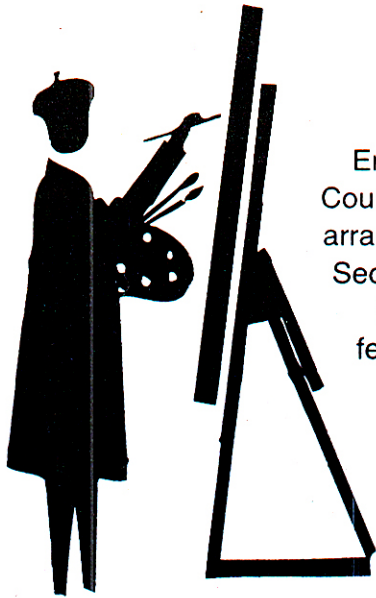
Gene Bruno, Tribal Secretary/Treasurer, reported on the tribal government's very successful management of claims funds held in trust for Citizen Potawatomi members. The Bureau of Indian Affairs Trust Investment Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico had managed that money since 1964.

"The annual rate of return on our investment, as managed by the BIA, was

typically in the 4-to-5 percent range," Bruno explained. "Then, in 1994, the federal government took action to allow tribal governments to invest those funds for themselves."

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation assumed management of its claims funds in 1996. "With the assistance of Larry Briggs, president of First National Bank, we examined several investment opportunities," Bruno said. "Last year, we increased our rate of return on these funds to 24.4%. So, we've just proven, once again, that a tribe with the right leadership and the right people to back us can do better than the BIA."

In the Southern California Region Art Contest, Betty Coleman earned first place for her "Little Girl" painting. Jeremy Bertrand Finch took second place with his Eagle Dance Stick. Her Painted Gourds earned third place for Nadija.



## Potawatomi Art Contest

Enrolled Citizen Potawatomi artists are encouraged to enter the 1998 art competitions to be conducted at each Regional Council meeting. Artists must bring their work to their individual Regional Council Meeting to be shown or make arrangements for the work to be shown and returned to them safely. Regional competition prizes are: \$150 First Prize, \$100 Second Prize, and \$50 Third Prize.

Please contact your Regional Director if you wish to enter your work at your Regional Council Meeting. There is no entry fee for regional competitions.

Each artist is limited to three entries.

Artists who win first, second and third prize will advance to enter a second round of competition.

### Those not represented by Regional Directors or Regional Areas:

Tribal members not represented by a Regional Director should write for applications in order to enter a Regional Competition in Oklahoma. Winners of the competition in Shawnee are then eligible for entry to the Oklahoma Regional Grand Prize Art Competition.

### Second Round Grand Prize Competitions

The following instructions are for winners of Regional Competitions, who will be judged the first week of June 1998: Submit 35 mm slides in standard mounts (no glass mounts), with one slide for each one-dimensional piece and two or three slides for each three-dimensional piece (one detail shot).

Slides should be labeled with the artist's name, title of the work, date completed, media and dimension (HxWxD). A self-addressed stamped envelope for return must accompany the slides. Entries must have been completed within the past two years and all entries must be the work of the artists (Regional & Second Competition). Acceptance and awards are at the discretion of the juror.

First prize will be \$300, second \$200, and third \$100.

Artist will be notified by mail as soon as the competition judging is completed.

On May 30th those individuals with entries at Regional Council Meeting in Kansas City must have all required information and materials in the hands of your Regional Director in order for it to be submitted for final competition. Send no actual art work, only slides and other requirements. (Winners of Kansas Regional Competition will be judged and announced at Kansas Council.)

DEADLINE for Second Round Art Competition applications and other required information is Tuesday, June 2, 1998.

The winners of the Second Round Grand Prize Art Competition will be brought to Shawnee for the 1998 Potawatomi General Council and Pow-Wow. Winning art work will be shown at that time.

For More Information, contact:

**Citizen Potawatomi Nation-Art Competition**  
1901 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801  
Attn: Norman Kiker





**COLORADO**  
**Penny Bishop**  
 90 Meade Lane  
 Englewood, CO 80110  
 Local (303) 761-7021  
 FAX (303) 761-1660  
 Toll-Free (800) 531-1140

**SOUTH TEXAS**  
**Lu Ellis**  
 26231 Huffsmith-Conroe Rd.  
 Magnolia, TX 77355  
 Local (281) 356-7957  
 Toll-Free (800) 272-7957

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**Jennifer J. Porter**  
 5033 Vannoy Ave.  
 Castro Valley, CA 94546  
 Local (510) 886-4195  
 Toll-Free (800) 874-8585

**OREGON/IDAHO**  
**Roscoe "Rocky" Baptiste**  
 Box 346, 525 Ivy Ave.  
 Gervais, OR 97026  
 Local (503) 792-3744  
 FAX (503) 792-3744  
 Toll-Free (800) 522-3744

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**Jeremy Bertrand Finch**  
 250 Wigmore Drive  
 Pasadena, CA 91105  
 Local (626) 403-0930  
 FAX (800) 432-2008

**NORTH TEXAS**  
**Marjorie Hobdy**  
 3132 Kathy Lane  
 Irving, TX 75060  
 Local (972) 790-3075  
 Toll-Free (800) 742-3075

**SOUTHWEST**  
**Philonise Williams**  
 20415 N. 29th St.  
 Phoenix, AZ 85024  
 Local (602) 569-3073  
 FAX (602) 569-6935  
 Toll-Free (800) 452-8966

**MIDWEST**  
**Maryann Bell**  
 12516 Askew Dr.  
 Grandview, MO 64030  
 Local (816) 761-2333  
 Toll-Free (800) 325-6639

## REGIONAL REPORTS

### North Texas

Here is the weather update for February. That old saying attributed to Texans has proved true this year. If you don't like the weather, wait five minutes. We've had rain and the floods that go with it. We even had snow to welcome Oprah to Amarillo. Did not want her to miss Chicago too much. We are in shirt sleeves one day and bundled up the next. And to top it off, a town down near San Antonio had twelve inches of hail. And most of this has created some real hardships for the people involved.

I have heard from quite a few of our tribal members this month and the majority of the calls were concerning health and dental care. A lot of our members' grown children are without

insurance and in need of care for serious illnesses. For those of you in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, some basic care is available at the Dallas Inter-Tribal Center, Inc., phone numbers 213-941-1050, metro 214-263-0313. These services are funded by Indian Health Services.

With the damage from our extreme weather and the illnesses, we have tribal members who are in need of our prayers. So please remember all. Our crocuses are beginning to bloom and that always seems to be our first hope of a recovery from winter. My children's baby doctor used to say, "Spring is coming and it will be better."

Plans are still under way for our Regional Meeting and you should have

your invitation some time in March. If you have a new address that has not been turned into Shawnee, please call me or Mary Farrell in Shawnee, so that the address list can be updated. I do get a lot of invitations returned and would like to make sure that you do get your invitation. If you have questions you would like to have answered by our Business Committee, please call and let me know what they are. I would like to hear from you if you will be able to help with registration and other tasks at the meeting. The help I had last year was certainly appreciated. Please put the date, April 25, 1998, on your calendar.

— Marj Hobdy

### Northern California

**Bozho,**

Today is February 3rd and Matt and I are finished mopping up our downstairs from the deluge of rain from last night's storm. What a lot of work it was cleaning up, but it was just an inch or so. Some of the folks we saw on TV have a lot more to deal with. We hope all of you are safe and dry.

Everyone once in a while, someone calls to start the process of forming a family tree. Megwetch to Mary Farrell in the Tribal Rolls Office for helping so many, including myself, with information toward that end. In addition to Mary's help, here are some websites you can visit to see what is available:

<http://www.familytreemaker.com/>  
<http://www.oz.net>

The next one is for genealogy and the Trail of Death site:

<http://www.public.iastate.edu>

If you want to keep up on what bills the Congress will be considering, such as H.R.2743 which threatens tribal sovereignty, here are the sites to check out:

<http://www.askwittteachik.org>

<http://www.nativeweb.org/community/webboard/askwittteachik/index.html>

<http://www.askwittteachik.org/federal/number.htm>

Recently, I acquired a couple of pow wow calendars which I will put into one document. I will list a few in reports, but if you'd like to have a copy and plan ahead, please give me a call and I'll send you one.

The Regional Meeting flyers will be going out in late February, so by the time you read this, you should have it in hand. The meeting, once again, is **APRIL 18th**, at the Aahmes Event Center in Livermore. Please call me if you didn't get a flyer. We will need help with the children's activities as well as

in other areas, so if you can lend a hand, please let me know.

I hope many of you will come and join in the gathering of our people. Come and enjoy the art contest/exhibit, the drum, singers, and dancers, the good food. Barbara Potter is planning some wonderful things for the children. It is your opportunity to hear what is going on at the tribal complex and ask questions. Esther Lowden and her tribal store always create excitement and smiles. Come and join in the circle!

Now, here is some pow wow data:

#### MARCH

14 — Homestead PW, Homestead High School, 21370 Homestead Rd., Cupertino Gwen (408)241-7999 or Nick (408)522-2238

20-22 — 6th Annual Mother Earth Awakening PW, Stewart Indian School Gym, 5377 Snyder Ave., Carson City, NV (702)882-1802 or 1808.

21 — 5th Annual PW to Heal, San Jose, (408)243-6517

28 — 8th Annual Nat. Amer. PW, CSU,

Stanislaus Gym, 801 W. Monte Vista Ave., Turlock (209)667-3598

#### APRIL

10-12 — 27th Annual UC Davis/DQ PW, Friday at DQ on County Rd. 31; Sat. & Sun. at Davis-Campus Rec Hall, (916)758-0470

17-18 — 8th Annual Humboldt PW, (707)826-4994

18 — 11th Annual Mills College PW, (510)430-2113 or 2341

18 — 14th Annual Golden Bear PW, UC Berkeley Campus (510)642-6613

18 — CSU, Sacramento PW, (916)387-0701

24-26 — 16th Annual Tewaquachi PW, CSU, Fresno (209)278-3277

25 — 2nd Annual Sierra College Honoring Youth PW, Sierra College Campus, Rocklin (916)789-2783

25 — Columbia College PW, Sonora (209)588-5270

That's it for this time. Be well and at peace.

Pama'

— Jennifer J. Porter

### Change of Address Form

*This is my current mailing address!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Include Maiden) (Please Print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Roll No: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: Mary Farrell, Tribal Rolls, Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801



# REGIONAL REPORTS

## Oregon/Idaho

**Bozho Nicon, Ni ji na?**

Just got back from attending the Western Oregon College Powwow, where our good friend and Potawatomi member Dave West was MC. He did a real good job. It was good to see all my Native American friends again, and to dance a little too.

Groundhog saw his shadow here in Oregon and it didn't take any time at all before the six weeks of bad weather started. But let's be glad that we're not down there with Jeremy and our Potawatomi friends in California. I hear it is bad ...

When most of you call, I usually refer you to the clinic and dental facility at Chemawa in Salem, but I do want to remind you that you can also take advantage of the health clinic and dental clinic at Grand Ronde. The dental clinic there has started a series on "how to quit smoking." They call it "Fresh Start." These free classes meet one hour a week for four sessions, and are starting continuously. If you are interested in quitting, please call Linda Mann at the Dental Clinic at 879-2023.

Please send in your business cards or a post card about your business and we will try to get our directory ready. This month is :

Network Connectors, Inc. PO Box 5361

Steve Baptiste (Potawatomi) Oregon City, Oregon 97045

Communications Installation Ph. (503) 650-7748

Remember to get your crafts ready for the Art Contest at Regional meeting, which is coming up fast. It is scheduled for May 9th at Lincoln City this year.

That will be nice for our Florence, Reedsport, Tillamook and West Coast members. Not too many have asked for entry forms for the art contest so who knows, you could be the winner! And go home with some money in your pocket!

The Pow-Wow trail for the next couple months is listed below. Hope to see some of you there. Be sure to call first to see that the date is still right.

Mason School Powwow, 2812 N Madison, Tacoma, WA, 206-596-1136.

March 7-8 — Scheelyi Mi Arts & Crafts Fair, Yakama Nation Cultural Center, Toppenish, WA, 509-865-5121.

Mar 14-15 — E-Peh-Tes Powwow, Lapwai, Idaho, 208-843-2253.

Mar 14-15 — Muckleshoot Monthly Powwow, Muckleshoot Tribal School, Auburn, WA, 206-939-3311, ext 259 (Tammy or Walter).

April 11 — NASA Powwow-Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA, 509-359-2441.

Apr 11 — Shoalwater Bay Sobriety Powwow-Westport, WA, 360-267-5301 (Salina).

Apr 18-19 — Native Arts & Crafts Show-Suquamish Tribal Center, Suquamish, WA, 360-598-3311

Apr 25 — South Umpqua Powwow, Myrtle Creek, Oregon

Until I talk to you again, may I remind you to call the toll free number, 1-800-522-3744, if I can answer any questions for you or help in any way. If I don't answer, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Megwich,

— Rocky Baptiste

## South Texas

**Ahau ngom, nikanes, Ni je na gin?**

This letter shall be short this time. I am stuffing envelopes for the Council meeting to be held on March 7th, and know we shall all have an opportunity to visit then. I look forward to that time, and seeing all of you again.

We are fortunate — the rain falls gently on us here in Southeast Texas, not in great gales as on the East and West coasts. Ma Mo Gos Nan, the Father of us all, gives us many blessings. Are your peach trees blooming in January and February also?

My father, John Whipple, fell on Friday, January 30. He is 90 years young and wise, but he broke a hip in that fall. His surgery was successful, and he is walking with a walker as I write this. He walked about 250 feet today, he said, only six days after his surgery. We are

blessed that he is strong and has "good bones," his doctors say.

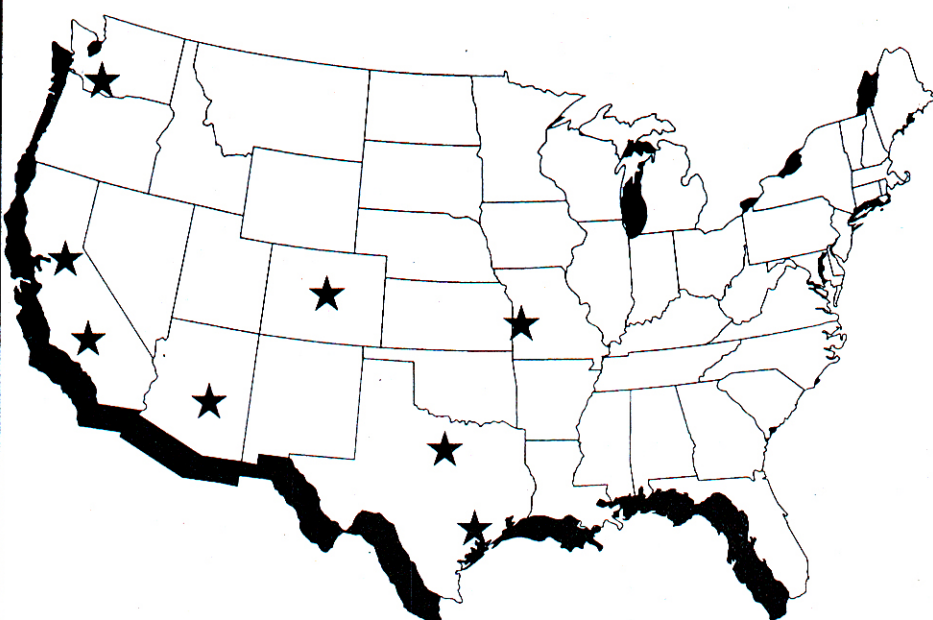
While we were up there in San Angelo, my mother had jonquils blooming in her front gardens. Is there no winter in Texas this year?

Not much else going on that I am aware of right now. After we share all that beautiful art work you are bringing to Council, we shall have more to write about. I look forward to seeing you work. The Traditional Dancer on your invitation is a computer "scanned" copy of a watercolor.

If you call me, I shall have more to write about, E? When you come to Council, I hope you bring some old photographs to share, and a story or two. Be careful out there on the road, and take good care of each other.

Bama mine' ngotdek,

— Lu Ellis



### 1997-98 Regional Council Schedule

Denver .....	Nov. 1, 1997
Phoenix .....	Jan. 17, 1998
Southern California .....	Feb. 21, 1998
Houston .....	March 7, 1998
Northern California .....	April 18, 1998
Dallas .....	April 25, 1998
Seattle/Portland .....	May 9, 1998
Kansas City .....	May 30, 1998

## Southwest

**Brouzho From Phoenix,**

The day of our regional was beautiful. Not only the weather was perfect but the atmosphere in the ballroom at the Wyndham Metro Center Hotel could not be happier. I believe coming into the room with the sound of the drum and the native singing set the tone. At last count there were one hundred people in attendance this year. It is the largest crowd I have ever had the privilege of hosting. I understand at one time the attendance numbered in the three hundreds, but that was long before I was regional representative. Thank you one and all who responded to the invitation.

It is always a pleasure to welcome the Business Committee to our Regional Meetings. This year we had the pleasure of meeting Michael Dodson, who is the new public relations person. Welcome aboard, Michael! We also welcomed many distinguished out of state guests to the meeting. From El Paso, Texas, Mr. Keith Navarre; Minisa Crumbo Halsey from Oklahoma City; Robert Whistler from Hemet California; and Marsi and Jameson Hauer from San Diego California. We also made some new friends, with 14 new members coming this year whom I'm told have never attended a

Regional Meeting before this year.

Elizabeth Young's group of singers and dancers set the stage for a joyful Potawatomi day! The singing and the drumming greeted us as we entered the room and played off and on all through the day. The dancers ranged in age from young adults to tiny tots and of course the tiny tots stole the show. However, the highlight of the day was a storyteller by the name of Stefen Bensen. Mr. Bensen was dressed in the regalia of a person living in the 1890s. He was very interesting and held our attention as he wove his tales and played his beautiful flute. Utterly delightful.

Rocky brought up very interesting and exciting news of things to come and plans for the future, explained in Michael Dodson's article in the last issue of the HowNiKan.

Well, it is time for me to close, but remember my telephone is always there if you need me or anything. I may not have an answer for you right then but I will get back to you sooner or later. Thanks again to all of you who attended and I hope to see you all next year.

We may not have it all together, but together we have it all!

Megwich,

— Philonise Williams



# Tribe's OTB operation draws fans from across Oklahoma

By MICHAEL DODSON

CPN Director of Public Information

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 guarantees Indian tribes' rights, as sovereign nations, to operate gaming "as a means of promoting tribal economic development, self-sufficiency, and strong tribal government."

Gaming plays a significant role in the very strong financial position of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. However, the Citizen Potawatomi believe gaming is merely "a means to an end," the best present source of investment capital for the tribe to enter traditional business ventures, such as banking, mercantile, and tourism enterprises.

The FireLake Off-Track-Betting parlor was opened as part of the Nation's FireLake Entertainment Center in April 1997. It features satellite feeds from seven horse race tracks in various parts of the United States.

Currently, FireLake Racing patrons can wager on races at Oaklawn, Tampa Bay, Freehold, Balmoral, Bay Meadows, Maywood, and Fairmont racetracks. These tracks feature everything from thoroughbreds to harness racing.

"Our patrons can place any wager that any of our participating tracks will accept," said George Teafatiller, FireLake Racing Manager. "That in-

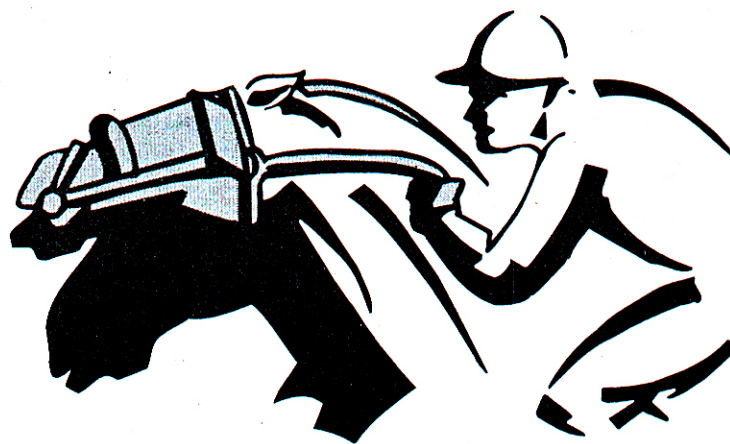
cludes everything from a one-dollar trifecta through the entire list of exotic combinations."

The FireLake racing parlor seats 70 in comfort. "We see patrons here from cities and towns within about a 50-mile radius - from Ada and Ardmore to Oklahoma City," Teafatiller said. "There has been a tremendous amount of interest here in the Shawnee/Pottawatomie county area."

FireLake Racing is open seven days a week, from 11 a.m. until the last track has finished its final race.

A few feet from the Off-Track Betting Parlor, FireLake Entertainment Center's 750-seat bingo hall is open seven days a week, a total of nine sessions. (There are matinees at 11:45 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.)

Regular session action begins at 5:45



p.m., with sale of mini packs. The minis play commences at 6 p.m. and is over at 7:30, when the regular

session kicks off. There are late games after the regular session concludes.

FireLake's largest bingo prize is typically the \$10,000 in the FireLake Jackpot. Recently, a U-PIK-EM jackpot reached the 14-to-15-thousand dollar level before a lucky patron won it. Pack prices are usually three, five, and ten dollars.

Opened in 1988, FireLake Bingo attracts more than 140,000 visitors each year. The 19,600-square-foot facility includes the 750-seat main bingo operation, electronic gaming devices, and administrative offices. FireLake Bingo employs about 70, full-time and part-time.

The FireLake Entertainment Center

also features a Las Vegas room. There, patrons find MegaMania, pull tabs, and games of skill. MegaMania is a networked bingo game that is played at linked halls in Oklahoma, California, Texas, Kansas, New Mexico, and Washington.

Because of the pooling of resources, very large jackpots are frequently won. **On Saturday, February 7th, a patron at FireLake took home a \$42,000 prize.**

The Las Vegas room is open from 11 a.m. until at least 2 a.m., and frequently later, each day.

To add to their comfort and enjoyment, FireLake Racing, Bingo, and Las Vegas Room patrons can dine on choices from a large menu. It features soups and salads, sandwiches and burgers, steaks, and numerous other entrees.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation gaming operations: (1) generate a steady flow of income to pay for improvements in reservation facilities, infrastructure, and programs; (2) create employment opportunities for both tribal members and non-Indians; (3) add large amounts to the state and local economy in the form of sales and income taxes and through the purchase of goods and services; and, (4) make possible donations for charitable work.

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Member  
FDIC





# OU American Indian Law, Policy Symposium To Address Issues

By MICHAEL DODSON

CPN Director of Public Information

Two members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation will be featured in prominent roles as the Association American Indian Law Review Editors (AAILRE) hosts a symposium and Silver Anniversary celebration at the University of Oklahoma on Saturday, March 28.

John A. "Rocky" Barrett, Jr., Potawatomi Nation Chairman, will be one of the panelists for a discussion of Native American tribal government sovereignty and corruption. Loretta Barrett Oden, owner and executive chef at the Corn Dance Café in Santa Fe, New Mexico, will design the menu and prepare the food for the event's luncheon and 7 p.m. banquet. Barrett Oden is considered by many to be the top Native American chef in the U.S.

In addition, the world's foremost scholar on the sovereignty of indigenous peoples and the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs will speak at the symposium.

Hurst Hannum, a Professor of International Law at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and Assistant Secretary Kevin Gover are among the distinguished scholars, policy makers, and tribal leaders who will present papers and engage in public discussion on the most critical issues facing Native American peoples and their governments in the coming decade.

The symposium will begin at 8 a.m. at the Thurman J. White Forum Building, 1704 Asp Avenue on OU's south campus.

Dagmar Thorpe, Executive Director of the Thakwa Foundation and recipient of the Louis T. Delgado Distinguished Grantmaker Award, will open the symposium with a paper titled "A Native American Citizen's View of Sovereignty." Thorpe, granddaughter of famed Native American athlete Jim Thorpe, will distribute copies of her book "People of the Seventh Fire: Returning Lifeways of Native America" to symposium registrants.

Other participants will include: Wilma Mankiller, former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation and recent recipient of both the U.S. Medal of Freedom and an honorary doctorate from OU; William Lawrence, investigative journalist and Native American Press publisher; Jo Carillo, Stanford Law School; Mary Wynne, Tribal Court Judge, Confederated Band and Tribes of the Colville Reservation; Robert Yazzie, Navajo Nation Supreme Court chief justice; and Robert A. Fairbanks, founding American Indian Law Review editor-in-chief.

The symposium will focus on two central issues: tribal sovereignty and tribal government corruption. Scholars, policy makers, and tribal officials will devote the morning session to presenta-

tion of scholarly papers. The afternoon session will be devoted to moderator-led public discussions of the issues raised in the morning session.

Although a separate and distinct event, the symposium will be conducted in conjunction with AILR's annual awards banquet. The banquet will begin at 7 p.m. on March 28 and will also be held at the OCCE.

"The symposium will take place at the White Forum Building, a United Nations-type facility, to permit maximum public participation," said Fairbanks. "The most critical Native American legal and political issue today is whether native tribes possess sovereign political capacity. The presenters and panelists will shine needed intellectual light on this issue."

Preston Van Camp, third-year OU law student and the current law review editor-in-chief, is especially excited about Hurst Hannum's presentation.

"On an international basis, he is the top scholar currently addressing autonomy, sovereignty, and self-determination of indigenous peoples. For the first time ever, he is turning his knowledge and experience to those issues as they affect Native Americans."

Van Camp added, "This symposium is going to be a landmark event in the history of the law review."

OU Law Dean Andy Coats expressed delight that native Oklahoman Gover will deliver the keynote address at the symposium luncheon. "The law school and the university are truly honored that Secretary Gover will participate in the law review's Silver Anniversary festivities," he said.

The *American Indian Law Review* is the only refereed law journal devoted exclusively to fostering research, writing, and publishing on legal and political issues that uniquely affect Native American peoples and their governments.

"The law review has had a long and distinguished history at the College of Law," Coats said. "It is significant that the nation's highest public official responsible for Native American matters has chosen to participate in this historic event at the University of Oklahoma."

Then-law students Hal William Ellis, Terrill Landrum, and Fairbanks founded AILR at the University of Oklahoma in 1973. According to Fairbanks, "The law review was established at the University of Oklahoma College of Law to assist in alleviation of the numerous problems that confront American Indians because of their unique relationship with the federal and state governments and their different social and cultural backgrounds."

Fairbanks noted that the need for the law review has become more critical with the passage of time. He explained, "Native American peoples and their governments are now embarking on the

most challenging period of their history with the United States of America."

"The complex diversity among native tribes has provided fertile ground for incongruous legal and political controversy for Native Americans for more than 200 years. There needs to be some

resolution to these important matters."

More information about the event can be obtained by contacting the American Indian Law Review by telephone at 405-325-2840 or by e-mail at [ailr@hamilton.law.ou.edu](mailto:ailr@hamilton.law.ou.edu).

## ELDERS QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

1. Which community do you live in or closest to?
2. Do you live alone? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
3. Indicate in order of importance (1 being most important) the top five crime-related concerns in your area.  
☐ Fear of crime    ☐ Burglary    ☐ Solicitors/vendors  
☐ Vandalism  
☐ Vacant/abandoned house    ☐ Purse snatching  
☐ Animal problems  
☐ Traffic concerns    ☐ Rape    ☐ Victimization    ☐ Fraud/scams  
☐ Abuse/neglect    ☐ Residential burglary    ☐ Murder  
☐ Assault

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Would you be interested in participating in any of the following crime prevention programs?

☐ Neighborhood Watch    ☐ Home security survey  
☐ Personal safety skills

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Would you be interested in participating in a volunteer program to assist law enforcement? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Please specify areas of interest:

☐ Neighborhood watch    ☐ Reassurance visits    ☐ Office work

☐ Victim assistance program    ☐ Home security

6. Do you need assistance in: ☐ Transportation/courier  
☐ Shopping    ☐ Running errands

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional information, helpful but not required: Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking time to fill out this survey. Please return to  
 Norman Kiker, Tribal Chaplain,  
 1601 Gordon Cooper Dr. Shawnee, OK 74801

### Dear Friends And Relations,

Approximately three years ago I had a very serious discussion with individuals of our Indian court system concerning the welfare and care of our elders. The facts are that abuse of many kinds takes place, victimizing people of all ages. Many times these go unreported and the trauma of being taken advantage of is never dealt with. I'll bet you either know someone who has had their home robbed or you may have been a victim in some way. Domestic violence is on the rise in our country and it isn't unusual to hear of abusive situations in some of our own families. Our elders are supposed to be honored and respected, especially in the Indian world, yet we know that there are many situations in which our elders are taken advantage of.

Now we have an opportunity to serve our elders by providing an elders hot line and referral center in the near future. I would appreciate the help of the elders of the Potawatomi Tribe, including spouses, by completing this survey and returning it to my attention.

Only you can make this elders program possible!

Norman Kiker, Chaplain  
 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.  
 Shawnee, OK 74801



# Anti-Indian letter in Shawnee newspaper results in flood of angry responses

By MICHAEL DODSON

CPN Director of Public Information

Titled "Too Much Help Doesn't Really Help", an anti-Native American Letter to the Editor hovered on the *Shawnee News-Star* editorial page on Friday, January 23, 1998 – incongruously perched under the heading "Bible Digest." The letter was a product of the pen of Ernestine Gravley of Shawnee, a well-known free-lance writer.

Gravley's letter launched a flood of enlightening and educational responses from Native American citizens of Shawnee. The *News-Star* printed 29 response letters over the ensuing 10 days. No one leapt to Gravley's defense.

Gravley complained that "I've never met anyone who personally had 'his' land taken away from him by some white European pilgrim. Yet, today's Indians are costing U.S. taxpayers as if we personally owe them not only a work-free living but wealth besides."

Gravley continued: "Indians, specifically Seminoles, get handouts from the government to which we Caucasians pay taxes, while they, full citizens of America the same as we, with all the opportunities inherent in this nation, escape the burdens and receive the gain."

The Seminole Nation of Florida was up next, in Gravley's sights. She complained that the Seminoles earned \$110 million in profits on their gaming enterprises last year while still receiving federal aid.

Native Americans here in the Sooner State did not escape Gravley's wrath. "Oklahoma Indians do all right, though," she claimed. "We taxpayers provide nice new housing for which they pay a few dollars a month, like rent, for a specified number of years. Meanwhile, in those families where the non-working, drinking, and doping teens knock out windows, holes in the wall, and all manner of destruction, the government (U.S., NOT tribal) repairs the place without charge to the residents."

The repudiation of Gravley's attitude began the day following the appearance of her letter to the editor. Marian Alfred Reeves of Tecumseh, an Absentee Shawnee tribal member, wrote "Mrs. Gravley, Indians are taxpayers, too! It is people like you that keep racism and bigotry alive and well in this land."

Reeves wrote of living in a home being purchased through a Native American housing authority. "I pay \$318 per month for my house and, when I have paid off the loan for \$46,000 and if 'I hang in there' long enough, it will be paid off."

In a letter also printed in the January 24 edition, Clarice Vieux Murdock, a Potawatomi, refuted the "Indolent Indian" stereotype. "I am currently 40 years old and have been gainfully employed since I was 18," Murdock said. "If my memory doesn't fail me, I believe I have paid taxes on every dollar earned and every dollar spent."

Murdock asked Gravley to re-think her ideas concerning the prosperity some Native American peoples have generated with their business acumen and entrepreneurial spirit. "A few Indian tribes have become prosperous enough to help their indigent members and get them out of state-operated assistance programs. Now, what does the white man say? He says, 'Oh, no, we can't have this. Stop them!'"

Deanna Tahquechi wrote: "To state that Native Americans escape the burden and receive the gain of living in the United States is insulting. Tribal members all over the U.S. pay federal taxes and state income taxes, Social Security taxes, and sales taxes just like American citizens of any other race."

In her response, Ann Alford Alexander of Tecumseh set the record straight with facts about Native American housing programs. "Native American housing authorities were established under the same provisions as other public housing authorities," Alexander wrote.

She also pointed out that: (1) Native American housing program participants who damage their homes are evicted; (2) tenants are now required to pay the costs of repairing damage to their rental units; (3) Native American housing program homebuyers are required to pay the costs of maintaining and repairing their homes; and, (4) as a housing program participant's income increases so does his house payment.

Matthew Atkinson, an Ojibwe from Norman, replied that, under 371 sovereign treaties with Native American nations, the U.S. government had assumed a trust responsibility for the first Americans' needs. "Treaties are not contracts that expire when Caucasians simply tire of fulfilling them nor when tribes finally discover a means of economic success through gaming," he said.

Brenda Allen-DuBoise of Shawnee personalized for Gravley the injustices heaped on Native Americans, from their first encounters with immigrants to this land in the 1500s through trails of tears and death and the Indian Wars to the quiet racism of today.

DuBoise asked, "If an individual or a group of people were to go to Ms. Gravley's home and take over her house, then make her walk across a couple of states, and place her in the state of Ohio, and tell her to live there, would she go willingly and without any retaliation?"

Denise Bettis of Shawnee spoke of the discrimination that Native Americans continue to experience. "Yes, we are fortunate to be American citizens," Bettis wrote. "However, our darker, olive-skinned complexions have exposed most of us to outright, blatant discrimination, including stereotypes, sarcastic attitudes, and condescending stares."

Alicia J. Onzawah employed a tongue-in-cheek style to put the lie to Gravley's insinuation that Native Americans are living well at the expense of taxpayers. "I would appreciate it if Ms. Gravley would disclose the location of this fountain of wealth that flows from the government because, as a Native American, I have yet to find it. Perhaps, if I did, it wouldn't be necessary for me to work a full-time job and attend school part-time as a political science/pre-law student."

Robert Ketcheshawno of Shawnee, a Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal member, tackled Gravley's stereotyping of Native Americans. "I have many good friends of Anglo-Euro descent and I cherish our relationships. George Wright, a lifetime friend in McCloud, falls into this category," he said.

"Never, to the best of my knowledge," Ketcheshawno continued, "have I blamed nor held George responsible for the actions of: Pilgrims, Columbus, Sooners-Boomers, mascot-naming, George Custer, Andrew

Jackson, Roger Dale Stafford, Ted Bundy, James Earl Ray, Jeffrey Dahmer, Lee Harvey Oswald, Timothy McVeigh, James Nichols, Theodore Kazcynski, David Koresh, Jim Jones, Bull Conner, Lester Maddox, Charles Manson, and the list goes on."

Janet Draper of Noble offered an economics lesson. "Her (Gravley's) next error was to assume that Indian businesses only benefit Indians. In fact, Indian businesses probably benefit non-Indians more than they benefit Indians. When an Indian tribe (editor's note: or for that matter, an individual Native American entrepreneur) starts a business, all money earned contributes to the Oklahoma economy. Many workers get off public assistance, which lowers taxes. They buy groceries, clothes, and other necessities at non-Indian businesses and pay taxes to the state of Oklahoma."

Finally, Jack Thorpe of Shawnee, a Sac and Fox/Citizen Potawatomi who is the former Principal Chief of the Sac and Fox Nation, rued the fact that he has not spoken out against racism before this. "Ms. Gravley's article upsets me to no end. For a number of years, I have stood by and read the *News-Star* as you published articles that are downright racist in nature toward the American Indians in this area. To my shame and outrage, I have not responded until today."

Ms. Gravley's letter did serve to open an avenue for Native Americans to refute stereotypes and bring forward facts that, it is hoped, will educate and erase some degree of ignorance. However, it did not prevent the *News-Star's* own editorial writers from rolling out one more veiled attack.

In a February 1 editorial titled "Tribal Accountability," the *News-Star* did offer its own repudiation of Gravley's opinions. "We surely do not agree with Ernestine Gravley's crude and rude description of Native Americans and her harsh categorization of what they appear to be like."

But, the editorial broadly implied that tribal governments do not account to taxpayers and tribal members for the government assistance they receive and the business enterprise dollars they earn. "While federal dollars, which are public funds, are distributed annually to the tribes, most of the money is not open for public inspection," the editorialist opined.

The *News-Star* writer referred to recently released numbers about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's impact on the Shawnee economy. He then asked, "How much of these profits are used to benefit tribal members and how much covers administrative costs?"

In a response column in his *Shawnee Sun* and *Tecumseh Countywide News* editions of February 5, publisher Wayne Trotter pointed out that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation annually prints audited financial statements for its government programs and business enterprises in the *HowNiKan*.

Using humor to deflate the *News-Star's* implications, Trotter wrote that saying that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is not accountable for its finances is akin to "saying that Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating has a weak vocabulary or that President Bill Clinton is shy around the girls."

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation wrapped up the episode by purchasing a full page in the Sunday, February 7 edition of the *News-Star* and publishing Trotter's column there.



# Tribal member shares culture with Luxembourg residents

In Luxembourg residents' language, Moien (pronounced moy'-yen) means "Good Morning." Although this European country is thousands of miles from her former home in Shawnee, it has become a second home to Sharon Belcher Delisio, an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Mrs. Delisio and her family have been living in Luxembourg since July 1997.

Her new neighbors have honored Mrs. Delisio as they have requested that she tell of her Potawatomi heritage at social gatherings. Her new friends in Luxembourg have also asked Sharon to plan a school curriculum based on the Potawatomi language and heritage.

Mrs. Delisio was born to Rena Hollingsworth Belcher

and the late Francis Belcher in Cuba, Missouri, a small town that is 80 miles southwest of St. Louis. She lived in Shawnee for a few years in the 1980s, during which time she was employed at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's FireLake Golf Course.

Mrs. Delisio's family now calls Rochester, New York home. Mobil Corporation employs her husband Jack. He travels the world, offering his technical experience for the task of



Sharon And Heather Delisio

eliminating costly repairs by providing training to Mobil's employees.

Both Sharon and Jack are former firefighters for the Rochester Fire Department. They have one daughter, teenager Heather, who is also an enrolled Citizen Potawatomi tribal member and who has

accompanied her parents to Luxembourg.

Mrs. Delisio said that the privilege of sharing her Potawatomi culture with other people is indeed an honor. Through telling stories about the Potawatomi's rich heritage, she has gained a modest reputation for presenting the Native American viewpoint to Europeans, who are mainly reliant on Hollywood movies to fashion their perspectives about Indian cultures.

Mrs. Delisio's heritage has been a great asset to her, because the people of Luxembourg have a keen desire to learn about the Potawatomi people, now that Sharon has provided them a unique opportunity to do so.

Mrs. Delisio has requested and received materials from family members and friends in the Shawnee area as well as a very valuable information supply from Norman Kiker, the Nation's Director of Language

and Culture Preservation Programs. She said that these materials will help in her effort to deliver her message in details that were not previously available to the Luxembourg audiences.

Although the country of Luxembourg is relatively small, covering approximately the same amount of land as Pottawatomie County, Mrs. Delisio says, it, too, has a rich history. In that vein, the cultural exchange has proved to be a two-way street for the Delisios.

The experience has been a special benefit for the entire family; even family members back home in Shawnee are excited about the situation. Most important, Sharon's family is honored that she has been given this opportunity to share the Potawatomi history and traditions with people who are eager to learn them and are respectful of the Potawatomi beliefs.

## Headquarters moves down the hill

Continued From Page 1

ters.

The Tribal Court will remain in the building at 1901 South Gordon Cooper. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program has also been moved there.

The Tribal Police Department office has been moved into the north side of the Tribal Museum building, into the space that the Language and Culture Program had occupied. The Nation's new environmental protection program, funded by a federal Environmental Protection Administration grant, will also be housed in the museum building's north side.

As a safety measure, the Business Committee has approved moving the entrance to the new tribal office building north a short distance. Its parking lot is being expanded at the same time. Work on that project has begun.

Business Committee members extended an invitation to visit the new Citizen Potawatomi Nation headquarters to tribal members and anyone else who is interested. They are planning an Open House in the near future, to showcase this very visible evidence of the Nation's progress.

The mailing address for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation will now be 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801. The telephone numbers remain the same: 405-275-3121 and 800-880-9880.

## Local officials among first volunteers

Continued From Page 1

The Pottawatomie County Juvenile Services Unit, schools in the area, and the youngsters' parents refer the young people who are helped through First Offenders.

The program is seven weeks long. Admission requires a commitment from parents or guardians to attend all meetings with their children.

The First Offenders Program has begun recruiting women and men from across Pottawatomie County to serve as mentors. These mentors will commit two or more hours each week to a first offender, with

whom they will be matched for three to six months.

First Offenders personnel will administer the True Colors personality survey to mentors and young people to ensure the best possible matches. Mentors will undergo a background check. They agree to refrain from forming a relationship with the young peoples' parents and to refrain from having the young people spend any nights at a mentor's home.

First Offenders has scheduled a three-hour mentor training session for 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 14. Mentors will receive information and

insights on sexual abuse and substance abuse. In addition, First Offenders staff members will administer the True Colors survey that morning.

Ron Gillham, Shawnee City city commissioner and local business owner, and Bob Weaver, Shawnee state representative, have volunteered as mentors. Commissioner Gillham and Rep. Weaver join Hubert in urging adults of all ages and walks of life to volunteer their time and energy.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Hubert, Dennette Brand, or Jana Ross at 405-275-3176 or at 800-880-9880.

## CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION REQUEST FOR BALLOT • 1998 ELECTION

In order to comply with the 1998 Election Ordinance, please fill out this form and return to: Potawatomi Election Committee, P.O. Box 310, Tecumseh, OK 74873

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Under penalty of perjury, I hereby declare this to be my legal signature and Potawatomi Tribal Roll Number:

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ TRIBAL ROLL #: \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS FORM MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE BY JUNE 7, 1998**

## Filing opens March 30 for three tribal posts

Filing opens March 30 for the 1998 Citizen Potawatomi Nation election, set for June 27. Filing continues on March 31 and April 1.

On the ballot this year are the Vice Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer positions, said Election Committee secretary Esther Lowden. She said there is also a vacant Grievance Committee post, seat #3, to be filled for a one year term.

Both Linda Capps, incumbent vice chairman, and Gene Bruno, incumbent secretary-treasurer, have announced they will seek re-election to new four-year terms. Candidates for tribal office must be enrolled tribal members at least 21 years of age, never convicted of a felony, and living in Pottawatomie, Seminole, Pontotoc, McClain or Okfuskee counties in Oklahoma.

Filing is during regular business hours at tribal headquarters, now located in the former Oak Crest Hospital building just east of the entertainment complex.

The independent Election Committee, made up of chairman Gary Bourbonnais, David Bourbonnais, Lowden, Harold Trousdale and Don Yott, is already accepting applications for absentee ballots (see form on page 16 of this issue). Those applications must be returned to the Election Committee by June 7 in order to vote by mail.